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OFFICIAL

Date: August 24, 2004

To: United States Patent and Trademark Office
Examiner: Nguyen T. Ha, Art Unit: 2831

Fax: (703) 872-9306

Re: **Application Serial No.: 09/761,489**
Filing Date: 1/16/2001; Inventor(s): Hadi Abdul-Ridha
Attorney Docket No.: 99CON103P-DIV1

From: Farjami & Farjami LLP

Number of pages including the cover sheet: 19

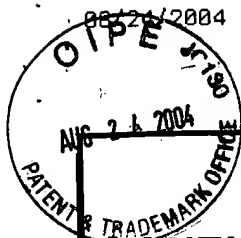
Message:

Enclosed please find the Amendment and Response to the Advisory Action dated July 19, 2004 and a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal. Payment for the Second Month Extension Fee and RCE filing fee in the amount of \$1,190.00 is hereby enclosed on Form PTO-2038.

Thank you.

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REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000,
provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application
filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number	09/781,489
Filing Date	01/16/2001
First Named Inventor	ABDUL-RIDHA
Group Art Unit	2831
Examiner Name	HA, N.
Attorney Docket Number	99CON103P-DIV1

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See *Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice*, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months. Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

 The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 50-0731
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☒ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed.
- c. ☒ Payment by credit card for the amount of \$ 1,190.00 (Form PTO-2038 enclosed).

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Michael Farjami, Esq.	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	38135
Signature		Date	8/24/04

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner For Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

Name (Print/Type)	LESLIE L. LAM	Date	8/24/2004
Signature			

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Attorney Docket No.: 99CON103P-DIV1

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Abdul-Ridha et al.

Serial No.: 09/761,489

Filed: January 16, 2001

For: Improved Structures Based on
Ceramic Tantalum Nitride

Art Unit: 2831

Examiner: Ha, Nguyen T.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO ADVISORY ACTION

Mail Stop RCE

Honorable Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is in response to the *Advisory Action* dated July 19, 2004 in the above-referenced patent application. Please enter and consider the following amendments and remarks in light of the attached *Request for Continued Examination* filed under 37 CFR §1.114 in the above-identified application.

08/27/2004 LWONDI1 00000003 09761489

02 FC:1252

420.00 OP